

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /063 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6766

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BL

SUBJ: FURTHER REACTION TO GULF OIL ISSUE

1. SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER HOY, IN ITS EDITORIAL OF MAY 23, DELIVERS ANOTHER STRONG BLAST AT GULF OIL COMPANY. EDITORIAL CRITICIZES GULF PRESIDENT DORSEY'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF PREVIOUS DAY, CHARGING THAT DORSEY SEEKS TO ABSOLVE GULF OF BLAME FOR PROBLEMS CREATED BY "POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS" ISSUE, WHILE LEAVING BOLIVIA WITH BURDEN OF GUILT FOR RESULTING DIFFICULTIES. LIKEWISE, HOY CONTENDS THAT DORSEY COMMENTS WITH RESPECT TO PERUVIAN NATIONALIZATION OF GULF IN THAT COUNTRY AGAIN SHOW LACK OF RESPECT FOR QUESTIONS OF PUBLIC MORALITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. LA PAZ PRESS OF MAY 23 ALSO REPORTS DECISION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AT SAN ANDRES AND CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES TO HOLD PUBLIC "FORUM" ON GULF OIL QUESTION ON THAT DATE. STUDENTS HAVE INVITED MINISTERS, MILITARY OFFICERS, POLITICIANS AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS TO PARTICIPATE IN SESSION, WHICH IS INTENDED TO REPLACE "MARCH IN DEFENSE OF NATIONAL DIGNITY" WHICH GOB SECURITY FORCES PREVENTED ON MAY 20. AMONG PERSONALITIES INVITED TO ATTEND FORUM ARE EX-PRESIDENT LUIS ADOLFO SILES SALINAS, AIR FORCE COMMANDER OSCAR ADRIAZOLA,
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MINISTER OF ENERGY AND HYDROCARBONS GUILLERMO JIMENEZ AND YPFB MANAGER ROLANDO PRADA.

3. ALL NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO CARRY SYMPATHETIC COMMENTS FAVORING RELEASE OF CARLOS DORADO CHOPITEA, GULF OIL EMPLOYEE, WHO IS NOW COMPLETING HIS SECOND FULL DAY IN SAN PEDRO PRISON, LA PAZ.

4. EMBASSY ALSO INFORMED BY VARIOUS SOURCES THAT ANTICIPATED CABINET AND MILITARY HIGH COMMAND CHANGES HAVE BEEN POST-PONED BY PRESIDENT BANZER UNTIL GULF REVEALS NAMES OF PERSONS WHO RECEIVED ALLEGED "POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS".

5. RADIO PANAMERICANA CARRIED NEWS ITEM THAT GOB HAD TAKEN DECISION TO NOT REPEAT NOT ALLOW ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIVERSITY FORUM DESCRIBED ABOVE.
STEDMAN

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